

# Scientific Integrity: A rescue plan for an evidence-based U.S. government

Office of Congressman Paul Tonko (NY-20)  
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## Science in U.S. public policy is under threat

- Federal scientists have been **prohibited from speaking about climate change** and **climate data have been scrubbed** from many U.S. Government websites
- Staff at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were **banned from using the words “evidence-based” and “science-based”** in budget documents
- The Trump Administration falsified scientific claims to justify restrictions on birth control access
- President Trump has proposed vast research cuts including a **72% cut to clean energy research**
- Qualified scientists were removed from EPA’s top science advisory board
- The U.S. Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) has **lost more than half of its staff** since the start of this Administration.

## Science-based policy decisions are being driven by political interests

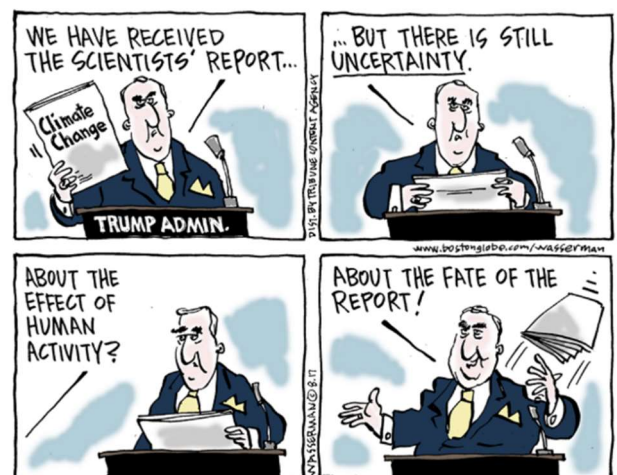
- The President signed **13 congressional resolutions** rolling back science-based protections, including for safe drinking water and worker exposure to chemicals on the job
- On August 18, 2017, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine were ordered to **stop research on health risks for communities living near surface coal mining sites**
- At the urging of the chemical industry, EPA scrapped its own recommended ban on chlorpyrifos, a pesticide **proven to impair brain development in young children**

## Congress Needs to Act!

Federal agency **scientific integrity policies** put a high wall between public scientific findings and the **political or special interests** seeking to influence them. **H.R. 1358: Scientific Integrity Act**, a bill with 152 cosponsors, would formalize these policies and strengthen them with the force of law.

### H.R. 1358: Scientific Integrity Act

1. Clarifies that science should determine policy, free from inappropriate politics, ideology, or financial conflicts of interest.
2. Requires federal agencies that fund or direct public science to establish & maintain clear scientific integrity principles.
  - More than 20 agencies currently have some form of scientific integrity policy that would be made stronger under this bill.
3. Helps facilitate the free flow of scientific and technological information while protecting privacy, confidentiality and national security.



Credit: Dan Wasserman/Tribune Content Agency

***Congress has neglected its duty to hold federal agencies accountable and protect public science from undue influence. Whether as citizens, journalists or public servants, the time to act is now!***

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